

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – Art Unit 1753**Attorney Docket No. 291958176US2
SEMTOOL REF No. P97-0013US3**Amendments to the Claims:**

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

3. (Currently amended) A contact assembly for supplying electrical power to a microelectronic workpiece during electrochemical processing of the microelectronic workpiece, the contact assembly comprising:

a workpiece holder configured to hold a workpiece face down;

a plurality of electrical contacts arranged along a perimeter area of the microelectronic workpiece, wherein individual electrical contacts include a first section located outside of the perimeter area of the workpiece and projecting generally downward below the face of the wafer, a second section projecting inwardly from the first section to perimeter area of the workpiece, and a contact face at an end of the second section for contacting a processing surface of the workpiece upon which electrochemical processing is to occur; and

a yieldable sealing system proximate the electrical contacts and configured to press against the surface of the microelectronic workpiece as the microelectronic workpiece and the electrical contacts are brought into engagement with one another in a manner that forms a seal against the processing surface of the microelectronic workpiece and thereby inhibits processing fluid from contacting the contact faces of the contacts.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) A contact assembly as claimed in claim 3 wherein said electrical contacts are recessed with respect to the yieldable sealing system without a workpiece loaded in the contact assembly.

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6. (Previously presented) A contact assembly as claimed in claim 5 wherein the yieldable sealing system deforms during contact with the surface of the microelectronic workpiece.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)